



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Color Country District
Cedar City Field Office
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive
Cedar City, UT 84721

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city.html



October 2012

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2009-0048-EIS
UTU 83067
2800

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sigurd to Red Butte No. 2 – 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (Project). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the EIS in consultation with cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), including Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of NEPA outlined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508 and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) NEPA procedures codified at CFR 220; U.S. Department of Interior guidance at 43 CFR Part 46; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, implementing regulations, the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) and the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1); and other applicable laws and directives.

This EIS has been prepared to analyze and disclose the impacts of granting a right-of-way across federal land to PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power, the Proponent) for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining the single-circuit, alternating-current, 345kV transmission line. The transmission line would be located between the existing Sigurd Substation near Richfield in Sevier County, Utah, and the Red Butte Substation near the community of Central in Washington County, Utah; a distance of approximately 170 miles. The Project also includes (1) expansion of the existing equipment at the Sigurd Substation on private land to accommodate interconnection of the proposed transmission line with the existing system, (2) communication regeneration stations associated with the transmission line, and (3) access roads to the transmission line structures where needed and where existing access is not available.

Approximately 113 miles (67 percent), of the transmission line route would be located on lands administered by three BLM field offices (the Cedar City, Fillmore, and Richfield field offices) and two national forests (Dixie and Fishlake). For this reason, the Proponent applied to the BLM and USFS for a right-of-way across federal land. If the Proposed Action is approved, the BLM would issue a right-of-way grant and the USFS would issue a special use permit for constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed transmission line and associated facilities.

The EIS is not a decision document. Rather, its purpose is to inform the public and interested parties of impacts associated with implementing the Proponent's proposal as associated with granting a right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line and associated facilities across federal lands, and to provide information to other regulatory agencies for use in their decision-making process for other permits required for implementation of the Project. The Final EIS also includes a summary of changes made between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS and a summary of the written and verbal comments received during the public review period for the Draft EIS and responses to the comments (presented in Appendix M).

The 30-day review period begins with the publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final EIS in the *Federal Register*. The review period will close at the end of the 30-day period, the date of which will be posted on the website shown below. While not a formal comment period, the

public and agencies can submit comments on the Final EIS. Comments may be submitted electronically at utsrproj@blm.gov and postal mail copies should be sent to:

BLM Cedar City Field Office
Attention: Tamara Gertsch
176 East D.L. Sargent Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84721
(435) 586-2401

Hand delivery of written comments to the same address may occur between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Envelopes and the subject line of emails should be identified as “Sigurd to Red Butte Transmission Project Final EIS.”

Comments received during the 30-day period following publication of the NOA will be considered prior to a decision on the Proposed Action.

Comments on the Final EIS should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if the comments refer to chapters and pages of the Final EIS.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or any other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Printed copies of the Final EIS are available for review at the BLM Cedar City, Richfield and Fillmore Field Offices, as well as the Dixie and Fishlake National Forest Offices. Electronic copies of the Final EIS on CD are available for public distribution. The Final EIS is also available for review and downloading from the BLM website at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/cedar_city/planning/sigurd_to_red_butte.html

If you have any questions regarding the NEPA process used to prepare the EIS or need additional information regarding the Project, please contact Tamara Gertsch, BLM National Project Manager, at (307) 775-6115.

Sincerely,



Todd S. Christensen
District Manager